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de Indias." The Editor might, however, be censured for giving only the text of the 1555 edition of the *Naufragios*, whereas it would have been infinitely more valuable had he copied and properly annotated that of 1542, published at Zamora. But against such an eventual reproach we must defend him. He knew of the existence of that *editio princeps*; but there are, as far as known, only two copies of it in existence. One of these, in a perfect state, is at the Lenox Foundation of the New York Public Library; the other, an imperfect copy (in which the pages lacking have been supplied by photolithographic reproductions), is in the British Museum. Such extreme rarities are not easily accessible from a great distance. The text of 1542 differs from that of 1555 in some respects, and these discrepancies are not as immaterial as the Editor of the two volumes before us fancies them to be. Neither is his rendering of the version of 1555 always exact. He has, with very laudable intent, endeavoured, in some instances, to elucidate the often confused original text—a thing that should never be done unless in footnotes or in an introduction.

The Editor's comments on the two books written by Cabeza de Vaca are, fortunately, limited. To state that the customs of the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico were nearly the same as those of the shifting tribes of Texas, and to quote the manuscript of Villagutierre y Sotomayor: "*Historia de la conquista, perdida y restauracion de la Nueva Mexico*" as a source of primary importance shows, first, that the Editor has a most insufficient knowledge of the bibliography on the subject; secondly, that he has not the least shadow of an idea about the regions traversed and the aborigines met in the sixteenth century. The same applies to his appreciation of the cures effected by Cabeza de Vaca and his companions, after they had been compelled to become "medicine-men" for the Indians. With the insignificant basis on which he rests his judgment it would have been far better, for his own sake, had he desisted from expressing any. His comments on the career of Cabeza de Vaca in Paraguay are less objectionable, because they are shorter. He defends Cabeza de Vaca from the unjust slurs cast upon him by Azara, to a certain extent, and makes the true remark that he "used to sin more from want of energy than through acts of violence."

In the first volume the edition of 1555 is recorded as the first, while in a footnote to the "Advertencia" to the second volume the Zamora print of 1542 is mentioned as the first. The well-known report of Hernando de Ribera of 1545 follows at the end of Cabeza de Vaca's "Comentarios."

A. F. B.

Jahrbuch des Schweizer-Alpenclub. Jahrgang XL, 1904-1905. Bern : A. Francke (vormals Schmid & Francke), 1905.

Statistics of accidents in the Alps, during the year 1904, sum up 49 cases, with 58 deaths. This is a slight increase over 1903, and is accounted for by a more favourable season and a corresponding increase of tourists. Three of the accidents occurred in winter, sixteen took place in the highest regions, and thirty-three in the subalpine. Only two guides lost their lives; fourteen tourists were killed while venturing alone into the range of lofty summits and glaciers far above the line of perpetual snow, and hence were victims of their own temerity. The other deaths were due to natural phenomena (avalanches, fog, and the like), to loss of foothold, exhaustion, etc.

In connection with such statistics the first section of the year-book becomes of special interest. The excursions and ascents therein described were of peaks least frequented, over crests and passes of most dangerous character. It is perhaps questionable whether the risks are in proportion to the results, whether it is worth while

for valuable lives to run the gauntlet of destruction so often and so rashly. Especially in a country so thoroughly "ascended" as Switzerland !! It becomes also tiresome to follow the rhetoric of a devoted acrobat over hill and vale, glaciers to kill, up "chimneys," along dizzy "bands," finally up something akin to Cleopatra's Needle to a bare point of rock, whence he surveys the identical panorama of "peaks, passes, and glaciers" enjoyed all around; only from a different angle. Some of the articles are of value, like that of the remarkable tour from Meyringen (Berne) to Chamouni in Savoy, climbing and vaulting nearly every tall peak that lies in the way, avoiding carefully what is easy and safe; and the "rambles of a guideless photographer." The chief results of these perilous adventures are the magnificent photographs published in this volume. They are, to the still-life of the Alps, what successful views of dense forests would be to the exuberance of the tropics. The detailed structure of imposing solitudes of rock, snow, and ice is represented with unsurpassable minuteness, and with a degree of artistic sense, that cannot be too highly commended. At the end of the first section is a valuable paper by Dr. Andreas Fischer (Basle), headed "In the Caucasus," and describing his ascents and explorations in the Abkhasian Alps; accompanied by a sketch-map of the mountain triangle within the courses of the Tschkalta, Kodor, and Gonatschkir Rivers. The highest points reached seem to have been: in the Abkhasian group the Dombai (4,051 meters = 13,287 feet), and later on the gigantic Elbruz (5,629 meters = 18,463 feet). Not content with that very respectable feat, Dr. Fischer and his companion, Mr. Alexander von Meck, President of the Russian Alpine Club, also ascended the Kuru-Tau (4,091 meters). A map of the Elbruz group is given from Russian charts on the scale of 1:210,000. The photographs accompanying the paper are worthy of the book in which they are published. Dr. Fischer calls his paper a mere sketch; still he finds space to refer frequently to the remarkable beauty of the region, the grandeur of the mountains, their picturesque forms (well given in the photographs), and the magnificent vegetation sweeping up to the very glaciers. Had the Caucasus the placid lakes for which Switzerland is so justly celebrated, it would, in its actual state of undefiled nature, probably be superior to anything the Alps can offer. No wonder that such scenery, merely indicated by Dr. Fischer, inspired in the late Gerhard Radde the inimitable beauty of his descriptive style.

The second part of the year-book, embodying specially scientific papers, begins with one on the periodic variations of the Swiss glaciers. It results, from observations made on many glaciers from 1897 to 1904 inclusive, that retrocession is very marked. But the same table also seems to indicate that the retrocession attained its maximum in 1900 and 1901, increasing annually up to that time and decreasing correspondingly afterwards. Still, the authors of the dissertation show that the snow-falls in the high Alpine region (hence local meteorologic phenomena) may become a factor not to be neglected. It is to be noted that glacial retrocession in the Andes of Peru and Bolivia has been very strongly marked since 1894. The short article on photographing in the Alps might well have been omitted; especially the two vignettes in the beginning and at the end, showing the author in attitudes recalling the German rhyme: "Mit Stiefel und mit Sporn, von hinten und von vorn."

The extensive discussion, by A. Wäber, of "Names of the Valais Mountains and Passes in the XIX Century" furnishes a voluminous bibliography of the Swiss Alps, beginning with Bonstetten's *Superioris Germaniae Confederationis Descriptio* (1479-80) and is brought down to about 1801. There is considerable obscurity yet in regard to most names, and the remarkable collection of documents relating to the Canton of Valais published by the Abbé Grémaud, which embodies documents from 300 A.D. to

1457, only mentions the Balmhorn. Of passes, the St. Bernard and the Simplon appear first under recognizable appellatives in the *Claudii Ptolomæi Cosmographia* of Donis in 1482 (Nicolaus Germanus). On the map of 1548 by Johannes Stumpf, Zermatt is recognizable, and the Mons Martis may stand for the group of peaks culminating in Monte Rosa, although Mr. Wäber identifies it with Monte Moro. But it is likely that not single summits, but groups (massifs), were meant by such names as Antrun Mons, Mons Martis, Mons Sylvius; the last referring to the region of the Matterhorn (Matterjoch). The author insists, perhaps too strongly, on the fact that passes appeared earlier in orographic nomenclature of Switzerland than summits. That the Mons Martis is intended for the Monte Rosa cluster is shown by the course of streams on the 1548 map. That the word "rosa" should mean a glacier, in the dialect of the Val d'Aosta, furnishes a more plausible and likely ethnology of the second highest mountain in Europe than the explanations generally admitted. The Valais was much less known than, for instance, the Bernese Oberland, where the Eiger (Mons Egere) and the Eiger-Rotstock (*Truncus rubeus*) are mentioned, in documents, already in 1252.

Among the remaining contents of this interesting year-book may be mentioned the long list of explorations during a part of 1903 and 1904, the crossing from Lenk to Leuk (les-Bains) by Küttner in 1780, and several of the reviews. One of these calls attention to the importance of Coolidge's book on Josias Simler and the origins of Alpinism as far as 1600 (Grenoble 1904).

A. F. B.

Du Transvaal à Lourenço Marques. Lettres de Mme. Ruth Berthoud-Junod. Publiées par Gaston de la Rive et Arthur Grandjean. 308 pp. Map, 28 Illustrations, and Appendix. George Bridel & Co., Lausanne, 1904. (Price, 3 fr.)

The author was a missionary's wife who, with her husband, made an overland journey, by ox team, from the Transvaal to Lourenço Marques, where they established a mission. Their success in the mission field was gratifying. Mme. Berthoud-Junod died in 1901 after nearly twelve years in Africa. Her letters are no commonplace description of missionary experiences. With a vivid pen the author sketched travel in Africa, the natives, and missionary work. She had an eye for the picturesque and the uncommon. She was writing to friends and not for the public, which may explain in part her naturalness and the ease and grace of her descriptions. The letters are worthy of preservation in book form.

Bilder aus Südasiens. Von Pauline Gräfin Montgelas. 146 pp. 6 Illustrations, and a Sketch Map. Theodor Ackermann, Munich, 1906.

A very readable account of the travels of the Countess de Montgelas in her extensive journey through Cochin-China, Cambodia, Siam, Java, Burma, and India. It is not frothy nor diffuse, but the writer describes succinctly what she saw that she regarded as most worthy of comment.

L'Ubaye et Le Haut-Verdon. Essai Géographique par F. Arnaud. 216 pp., and Maps. Published by the author, Barcelonnette, 1906.

Mr. Arnaud says that Alpinists and tourists who use the French Staff map on the scale of 1:80,000 find that much information of importance to tourists is lacking on the sheets. Among the mountains of southern France, for example, there are areas of ten square kilometers in which there is not a single name.